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24 NOVEMBER 1986

Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

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24 NOVEMBER 1986

WORLDWIDE REPORT
EPIDEMIOLOGY

CONTENTS

HUMAN DISEASES

BANGLADESH

Briefs

Cholera Death Reported	1
Conjunctivitis in Chittagong	1

BARBADOS

'Red Eye,' Flu Epidemics Keep Students, Workers at Home (Kim Young; Bridgetown WEEKEND NATION, 3-4 Oct 86)	2
---	---

Briefs

AIDS Deaths	3
-------------	---

BELIZE

Briefs

Flu Outbreak	4
--------------	---

CANADA

AIDS Incidence, Medical Funding, Problems Discussed (Various sources, various dates)	5
743 Cases, by Tony Atherton	5
Ontario Government Funding, by Craig McInnes	6
Ontario Male Prostitute, by Paula Adamick	7

Salmonella Poisoning Outbreak Reported at Toronto Hospital (Paul Bilodeau; Toronto THE SUNDAY STAR, 19 Oct 86)	8
CHILE	
Briefs	
AIDS Case	10
COLOMBIA	
AIDS Cases Reported (Bogota EL TIEMPO, 29 Sep 86)	11
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	
Briefs	
AIDS Update	13
ETHIOPIA	
Briefs	
Illubabor Vaccination Campaign	14
GHANA	
Briefs	
Fadama Refugee Health Problems	15
GUYANA	
Minister of Health Comments on Immunization Campaign (Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE, 6 Sep 86)	16
HONG KONG	
Physician Discusses Treatment of Leprosy in Hong Kong (Brian Wong; Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, 6 Oct 86)	18
Toxic Gases Increase Incidence of Respiratory Diseases (Jennifer Henricus; Hong Kong HONGKONG STANDARD, 8 Oct 86)	20
Factory in Kwun Tong Source of Cholera (Jessie Yim; Hong Kong HONGKONG STANDARD, 4 Oct 86)	22
New Cholera Case Diagnosed in Kowloon (Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, 8 Oct 86)	24
INDIA	
Famine Relief Program Spreads Guinea Worm (New Delhi PATRIOT, 9 Oct 86)	25

Gastroenteritis, Cholera Break Out in Bengal District (Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH, 6 Oct 86)	26
INDONESIA	
Briefs	
Hemorrhagic Dengue Fever	27
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	
TB Infection Fitted by Simple Catalytic Model (Li Tingjie; Beijing ZHONGHUA JIEHE HE HUXIXI JIBING ZAZHI, No 3, 12 Jun 86)	28
TB Complicating Silicosis at Mine Analyzed (Wei Xianzeng; Beijing ZHONGHUA JIEHE HE HUXIXI JIBING ZAZHI, No 3, 12 Jun 86)	29
PORTUGAL	
Breakdown of AIDS Cases Reported Analyzed (Lisbon TAL & QUAL, 26 Sep 86)	30
SUDAN	
Briefs	
Mysterious Fever	31
TURKEY	
'Diarrhea' Epidemic Continues (Istanbul MILLIYET, 10 Aug 86)	32
More Die in 'Diarrhea' Epidemic (M. Kemal Aycicek; Istanbul MILLIYET, 9 Sep 86)	34
Thermal Power Plant Pollution Feared (Selma Guven; Istanbul MILLIYET, 20 Aug 86)	35
ANIMAL DISEASES	
HONG KONG	
Briefs	
Mistaken Rabies Diagnosis	36
TURKEY	
Rabies Quarantine in Twenty Villages (Bulent Cicek; Istanbul MILLIYET, 28 Aug 86)	37

PLANT DISEASES AND INSECT PESTS

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

BERNAMA on New Pest Spreading to Southeast Asia (Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA, 30 Oct 86)	39
--	----

GHANA

Briefs	
Farmers Assured on Locust Threat	40

INDIA

Researcher Refutes Claims on Scab Disease Cure (Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA, 7 Oct 86)	41
---	----

PORTUGAL

Sharka Disease Attacks Orchards in Algarve (Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, 19, 26 Sep 86)	42
Alarming Spread Reported	42
Virus Controlled	42

SENEGAL

Briefs	
Insecticide Spray Plane Crashes	44

SOUTH AFRICA

Cold Spell Delays Locust Invasion (Johannesburg THE STAR, 9 Oct 86)	45
Expected in West Transvaal, Northern Cape, by Andre du Toit	45
Swarms Difficult to Pinpoint	45
Farmers Engage in Grasshopper Vendetta	46
Farmer Notes Fast Reproduction, by Hannes de Wet	46
Locust 'Counter-Insurgency' Begins (Hannes de Wet; Johannesburg THE STAR, 3 Oct 86)	48

VIETNAM

Hanoi Reviews Crop Pest Status for 10 Past Days (Hanoi Domestic Service, 31 Oct 86)	49
Briefs	
Ha Nam Ninh Pest	51
Thai Binh Pest Control	51

/9987

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

CHOLERA DEATH REPORTED--Cholera claimed seven lives in Gunabati under Chowddagram upazila within a week. It is learnt that at least six cholera affected persons have so far been released after treatment from local health complex. It is alleged that although a medical team visited the affected areas, yet they were not supplied with required medicines for curbing the disease. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 14 Oct 86 p 2] /13104

CONJUNCTIVITIS IN CHITTAGONG--Conjunctivitis has broken out in Chittagong city in an epidemic form. It is now common here to see people wearing sun glasses to hide their swollen eyes. This infectious disease is now spreading fast. Conjunctivitis has broken out here for the last two months. But it could not be known as to how the port city dwellers first contracted this disease. An eye specialist when contacted said that the disease rarely causes any complications in the cornea. He suggests that "no touch technique" be followed to avoid contracting the infection. One should wash ones hands thoroughly before touching the eyes, he added. Another physician said that merely wearing sun glasses cannot check the spread of the infection. He felt that the humidity and temperature now prevailing in the city might have helped the virus to multiply. [Excerpt] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Oct 86 p 8] /13104

CSO: 5450/0026

BARBADOS

'RED EYE,' FLU EPIDEMICS KEEP STUDENTS, WORKERS AT HOME

Bridgetown WEEKEND NATION in English 3-4 Oct 86 p 1

[Article by Kim Young]

[Text]

BUSINESSES AND SCHOOLS have been hard hit by the "red eye" (conjunctivitis) epidemic and an outbreak of influenza.

Hundreds of schoolchildren have been sent home and scores of employees are away from work to recover from bouts of the viral illnesses.

One St. Michael primary school reported 12 teachers and over 102 students were out, while business houses had as many as 16 workers on sick leave with either the flu or "red eye", or a combination of both.

One department store manager said 12 of 496 workers in all branches were on sick leave, and another, with 150, reported 12 with "red eye" and five with influenza.

Manufacturers have also reported a high incidence of sick leave related to "red eye".

But absenteeism is at its highest in the schools where both teachers and students have fallen victim to "red eye".

Smaller classes

Most school authorities declined to give figures, on the advice of the Ministry of Health, but admitted classes at all levels were becoming smaller daily as cases of flu and "red eye" rose.

It was not possible to determine from the National Insurance Scheme the level of sick leave claims filed during the past few weeks because the officer dealing with statistics did not report for work yesterday. It was not known if he too was a victim of "red eye" or the flu.

Doctors have been kept busy and there have been long lines of people seeking medical help, especially at polyclinics.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health made another appeal to those with "red eye" to exercise care when disposing of tissues used to clear infected eyes and to exercise care with personal hygiene.

/9274

CSO: 5440/013

BARBADOS

BRIEFS

AIDS DEATHS--Fifteen persons have died from AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in Barbados so far for the year. According to a Government release, there were 20 reported cases of the killer disease up to last Thursday. Of these, 17 were adults, comprising 16 males and one female. The other three were children ages three months, two years and five years. They were the offspring of parents in the high risk category for AIDS according to the Government statement. Since the last Government bulletin was issued in July, there has been an increase of three reported cases and one death. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 27 Sep 86 p 1] /9274

CSO: 5440/018

BELIZE

BRIEFS

FLU OUTBREAK--Corozal Town, Mon, 15 Sep--Since last week hundreds of cases of influenza have been reported in this town and surrounding areas. Many more cases have not been reported. In some instances whole families are reported down with this unpleasant ailment. The illness is described as one which is marked by high body temperature, accompanying cold and cough, and sometimes aching joints. Some victims of the illness have even complained about conjunctivitis--like (pink eye) pains. The best known layman's relief is to drink plenty of fluids and to get bed rest until the flu has run its course. If the fever persists, however, then it is advisable that medical expertise be sought. [Text] [Belize City AMANDALA in English 19 Sep 86 p 11] /9274

CSO: 5440/014

CANADA

AIDS INCIDENCE, MEDICAL FUNDING, PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

743 Cases

Ottawa THE OTTAWA CITIZEN in English 10 Oct 86 p C4

[Article by Tony Atherton]

[Excerpt]

AIDS is most commonly associated with homosexual males, but it is scrupulously non-discriminatory, says Greg Smith, co-ordinator of the National Aids Centre.

A second generation of AIDS victims is emerging — the unwitting lovers of infected bisexual men, the sex partners of abusers of injected drugs, or members of a nationality or community in which the disease is prevalent.

As of Oct. 6, 18 heterosexual partners of high-risk individuals had developed AIDS in Canada, 2.4 per cent of the 743 total cases. That's up from 1.9 per cent in April.

There have also been 17 cases of AIDS in children under 15. Three of those were the result of blood transfusions. The rest were infected in the womb or during the trauma of birth — a deadly legacy from infected parents.

The first Canadian case of AIDS was officially reported in February 1982. Now, Canada has the fourth highest incidence of confirmed cases among reporting nations with about 30 cases per million population. The U.S. has more than 100 cases per million, Haiti, 60 cases, and Central Africa, 50 cases.

It is assumed that the count in Haiti and many African countries is low because of a poor reporting system.

Kim Elmslie of the National Aids Centre says Canada's high number of cases relative to population is partially the result of a thorough reporting system (reporting of AIDS cases is mandatory in all provinces except Quebec) and proximity to the huge pool of infection in the U.S.

Of the 20 adult males in the Ottawa area known to have contracted the disease, three were recipients of blood or blood products tainted with the virus, and the rest were homosexuals.

Ottawa's only woman AIDS victim is one of a scant two per cent

of the Canadian cases which cannot be assigned to any known high-risk group.

She is also one of only 37 Canadian women — seven per cent of the total — known to have contracted the disease.

The potential for contracting the virus is even greater than the number of confirmed cases would indicate. Extrapolating from the results of a nation-wide blood-donor screening instituted in November 1985, health officials have estimated there are 50,000 Canadians who have already come into contact with the AIDS virus, says Smith. About one in 40 of those is expected to eventually develop the disease.

The National Aids Centre doesn't make predictions on the progress of AIDS longer than a year at a time (we are expected to hit 1,000 cases by December) and therefore Smith won't speculate on how the percentage of second-generation AIDS victims will grow.

However, he says that at some point the spread of AIDS in the homosexual population, which now accounts for more than 80 per cent of the Canadian cases, will reach a plateau, its progress stalled by the limited size of the group.

Then the balance will begin to shift.

Ontario Government Funding

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 17 Oct 86 p A5

[Article by Craig McInnes]

[Text]

The Ontario Government has come through with interim financing to keep the AIDS Committee of Toronto solvent.

The committee would not have been able to pay salaries next week if the province had not come through with the money, ACT chairman Joan Anderson told a news conference yesterday.

The committee decried as woefully inadequate the financing supplied by the federal Government, which is giving it \$150,000 this year. Ottawa has promised the same amount, but no more, next year, in spite of a

House of Commons committee report that recommended the financing for community support groups such as ACT be more than doubled.

Meanwhile, the number of people with acquired immune deficiency syndrome continues to double every 12 months, and the AIDS committee says its resources are already taxed to the limit.

"Our AIDS support counsellors receive almost 600 phone requests each month for their advice, and the over-all workload is such that they can only service about 95 per cent of these," Ms Anderson said.

As of Oct. 1, there were 743 cases of AIDS reported in Canada, with 350 patients still alive. Two hundred

and eighty-four of the 743 cases were in Ontario with 142 still alive. As of Oct. 15, there had been 198 cases of AIDS reported in Toronto and 91 of those patients were still alive.

"One year ago, there were 55 people with AIDS alive in Toronto; a year from now there will be about 200," Ms Anderson said.

"Already we know that AIDS is the number one killer of Torontonians between the ages of 35 and 44 — men, women, gay and straight — as well as the number two killer of those between ages 25 and 34. AIDS will continue to worsen in Canada for about another year and a half."

ACT has already received \$100,000 from the province this year and is hoping to get another \$125,000. So far the province has agreed to give the committee enough to meet its payroll while negotiations continue for further financing.

The AIDS committee also hopes to raise about \$200,000 from private contributions.

In spite of financial problems, ACT announced yesterday it would be offering new services, including self-help groups for people who are caring for people with AIDS, for people who have tested positive to the blood screening test for blood antibodies to the AIDS virus and for people with AIDS-related complex.

Ontario Male Prostitute

Toronto THE TORONTO STAR in English 16 Oct 86 p A7

[Article by Paula Adamick]

[Text] LONDON, Ont. — A male prostitute who has been diagnosed as an AIDS carrier has been sentenced to 15 days in jail and two years' probation for soliciting an undercover police officer.

John Murray Zelinski, 20, of London, was sentenced yesterday after pleading guilty last month to communicating with the officer for the purposes of prostitution.

According to Provincial Court testimony, Zelinski had offered to perform oral sex on the policeman March 20 in Victoria Park for \$20.

The incident occurred just two months after Zelinski learned he was a carrier of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

High risk

The London man had been warned by his family doctor to take special precautions when having sex to protect his partners, court was told.

Although Zelinski does not have the sexually transmitted disease or the AIDS-related complex, he does run a higher risk of contracting AIDS and of infecting his sexual partners, court heard.

London's medical officer of health, Dr. Douglas Pudden, told

the court earlier that AIDS carriers do not have to be reported to medical authorities, even though, in his opinion, they pose a threat to the homosexual community.

He testified that AIDS can be contracted by oral sex and a person who engages in sex with an AIDS carrier can himself become a carrier of the disease.

More concern

During sentencing, Provincial Court Judge Allan Guthrie said although it is no crime to have AIDS, Zelinski told his landlady in February that he carried the virus and was aware of the possibility he might transmit the disease to an unknowing partner.

Although the suspended community college student did not actually have the disease, Guthrie said, "It must be driven home that he must have more concern for others."

Zelinski was also ordered to seek counselling and further medical assessment.

The maximum sentence under the Criminal Code for communicating for purposes of prostitution is six months in jail.

/7358

CSO: 5420/3

CANADA

SALMONELLA POISONING OUTBREAK REPORTED AT TORONTO HOSPITAL

Toronto THE SUNDAY STAR in English 19 Oct 86 p A3

[Article by Paul Bilodeau]

[Text] A month-long outbreak of salmonella poisoning has struck at least 22 patients and staff members at Toronto East General Hospital, The Star has learned.

The outbreak first became evident Sept. 10 but was not made public by the hospital or East York public health officials at that time.

So far, investigators have not been able to pinpoint the source of the bacterial infection, commonly associated with contaminated food.

All of the confirmed cases of poisoning — six patients and 16 staff members — have recovered or are recovering from symptoms of diarrhea and vomiting. The latest case is an elderly patient who became ill last Tuesday.

The Star learned of the outbreak yesterday from a man whose mother came down with the poisoning while in hospital recovering from an operation.

The man, who asked not to be identified, was alarmed that the hospital had not made the outbreak public so his mother could have chosen whether or not to have the surgery performed there.

East General spokesman Cyndy DeGuisti said this is the first outbreak of salmonella poisoning at the 623-bed hospital, which has more than 2,000 staff workers and 100 physicians.

'No danger'

DeGuisti denied any attempt at a coverup and said officials did not deem it necessary to issue a warning to the community because the outbreak posed "no danger."

Officials of both the Ministry of Health and the East York public health department were called in when staff members began reporting the illness.

Dr. David A. Korn, chief medical officer for Ontario, said he was alerted of the outbreak at the outset, but there is "no formalized policy" requiring hospitals to publicly announce such outbreaks.

Korn said it is up to local public health officials to assess the situation to see whether it poses a danger.

"How this is dealt with varies from community to community," he said. "Some communities may decide to issue a media release, others feel a responsible way is to respond to media inquiries when they are made."

Dr. Richard Schabas, chief medical officer for East York, said that "there was never an intention of not making (the outbreak) public. The hospital has had a press statement available to anyone who inquired as early as Oct. 3."

DeGuisti said the hospital received "a couple of calls." However, the story apparently did not get widespread media attention.

For three weeks, public health officials had instituted surveillance of the kitchen staff and procedures at East General, and isolated high-risk patients, such as newborn babies, until last week, Schabas said.

Investigators isolated a bacteria called salmonella D enteritidis that commonly causes gastroenteritis which lasts from 24 to 72 hours.

Mild illness

"Fortunately in every case, with one exception, it's been a very mild and self-limited illness," Schabas said.

"In one case (the bacteria) was grown on a blood sample in a cancer patient, which was potentially more serious." The patient has recovered from the poisoning, he said.

Schabas said, to his knowledge, there were no new cases of the poisoning after Oct. 1, and the hospital was given a "clean bill of health" to relax precautionary

measures Oct. 10 and return to its normal routine.

However, DeGuisti confirmed that a 78-year-old woman patient had contracted the poisoning last Tuesday, Oct. 14. The woman is now recovering in an isolation ward.

"Our infection control people are doing more testing to try to find out if it's the same type of salmonella," DeGuisti said.

Schabas said investigators are "puzzled" about the cause of the outbreak because the illness has occurred in "scattered cases."

"Generally, in outbreaks of this, you'd have a large cluster of cases at one time," he said, adding that there is no evidence the infection was spread by hospital care.

During the investigation, the hospital was instructed not to serve poultry foods which are known to be common carriers of the bacteria.

/7358

CSO: 5420/4

CHILE

BRIEFS

AIDS CASE--Valparaiso, 22 Oct (AFP)--A woman AIDS patient today died in Valparaiso according to Chilean health authorities who said the woman might have acquired the AIDS virus from her late husband, a sailor who had made several trips to the United States and Haiti and who died in June 1985 from a pulmonary disease. Fatal AIDS cases in Chile now number seven. The first reported death occurred 3 years ago. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1825 GMT 22 Oct 86 PY] /6091

CSO: 5400/2005

COLOMBIA

AIDS CASES REPORTED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Sep 86 p 3-A

[Text] To date 35 cases of AIDS have been reported in Bogota, Cali and Medellin, according to medical authorities in the three cities.

Some patients have already died, and the rest are expected to die within the next few months, a medical specialist in Medellin stated.

However, it is calculated that at least 1,400 Colombians are carriers of the disease, but that it will never affect them. "The healthy carriers do not know they have AIDS, and what is worse, they are transmitting it to hundreds of other individuals. The disease increases in geometric proportions," said Dr Guillermo Prada of the Los Andes Medical Center in Bogota.

Studies made to date reveal that of every 100 persons who get the virus, only 20 develop the disease.

According to observations made by a scientific team headed by Dr Prada, Colombian homosexuals have, on the average, about 40 contacts per year. This indicates the extent to which the disease could be transmitted, should an individual be infected.

On the television program "Enviado Especial," to be heard tonight at 10:30, a 20-year-old man who has AIDS admits having contracted the disease in a male prostitution environment in which he lived until 8 months ago, when he discovered he had AIDS.

Speaking before the camera, this young Bogota man describes the suffering caused by the disease, and adds, "I do not feel hatred for the person who infected me. I do not hate anyone. It was an accident, and this can happen to anyone."

This is the first interview in Colombia with an AIDS victim.

18 Cases in Bogota

To date 18 definitely identified cases have been reported in the country's capital. Half of these acquired the disease through contact with American

tourists or in the United States, said Dr Guillermo Prada, referring to the statistics for the capital city.

Participating in the same program is a member of the Colombian gay liberation movement, who explains the impact AIDS is having on the risk group in this country and tells of some of the protective measures being taken at present by these people to counteract the danger.

Also analyzing the subject is a priest from the Medical Department of Javeriana University, who heads a team studying the subject of homosexuality in Colombia, as well as Dr Guillermo Prada, possibly the professional who has done the most research on AIDS in Colombia.

According to them, the danger of spreading the disease lies in the so-called "healthy carriers," and the only way to counteract its lethal action is to encourage them to come to private medical centers in Colombia's main cities, where blood tests can be done to determine the presence of AIDS.

As to how the disease--which can also be acquired from women, given the rate of bisexuality in this country--is spread, the doctors said that no survey has been taken.

However, they stated emphatically that the problem is not a cause for alarm at this time, and will not become one if the state takes the measures necessary for its control.

Unfortunately, they added, neither the Health Ministry nor any regional authority has initiated any action with respect to the disease.

8735/8918

CSO: 5400/2002

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

AIDS UPDATE--Dr Norman de Castro, a hematologist, has reported that cases of AIDS in the Dominican Republic now total more than 100. He also noted that a report disseminated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) was not "up to date." De Castro said that the PAHO "was not current" as regards the Dominican Republic when it reported that 62 cases of AIDS had been detected, since the number of persons affected by this disease total 106. The hematologist said that 50 percent of the Dominicans affected by this frightful disease have died and that the situation "is highly worrisome, since the number of cases is increasing." "New cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) have been reported, and this should be a cause of concern to the different sectors of society," Dr De Castro said. With respect to the report's showing the Dominican Republic in sixth place on the list of countries in which AIDS has been discovered, he said, "The report is correct; however, instead of 32 we have had 50 deaths from this frightful disease." The hematologist went on to say, "The number of AIDS cases showing up in the Dominican Republic this year is increasing, and this is a real problem because it is a devastating disease." [By Diogenes Tejada] [Excerpt] [Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 26 Sep 86 p 3] 8143/9869

CSO: 5400/2003

ETHIOPIA

BRIEFS

ILLUBABOR VACCINATION CAMPAIGN--Mettu (ENA)--The vaccination campaign against six diseases launched in Ullubabor region is reported to have achieved its goal by 85 per cent. This was stated during a three day seminar on vaccination under way here in which health professionals from Addis Ababa, Illubabor, Kaffa and Wollega regions are participating. The seminar is aimed at exploring ways to coordinate the control of contagious diseases and to strengthen the vaccination programme. The vaccination programme against six diseases, leprosy, venereal disease and diarrhoea and blindness were among the topics discussed at the opening of the seminar. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 11 Oct 86 p 4] /9274

CSO: 5400/37

GHANA

BRIEFS

FADAMA REFUGEE HEALTH PROBLEMS--The Humanitarian Care and Relief Organisation has appealed to the Government to give the necessary backing to charity organisations to rehabilitate destitutes in the society especially refugees from Chad and Mali. The organisation whose main aim is to mobilise the rural communities for self-help projects has described the plight of refugees at Fadama as a threat to the lives of the people in the community. According to Mr Kwesi Attah, founder of the organisation, most of the refugees are suffering from tuberculosis and skin diseases. They sleep on bare floors in dilapidated or uncompleted buildings. Mr Attah disclosed that in conjunction with the Red Cross and Social Welfare Department, the organisation donated three hundred bags of beans and five bags of fish powder to the refugees. [Text] [Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 27 Sep 86 p 8] /9317

CSO: 3400/213

GUYANA

MINISTER OF HEALTH COMMENTS ON IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 6 Sep 86 p 5

[Text] Early this year the Ministry of Health launched a nation-wide campaign to immunise all school children by year-end. This campaign formed part of a wider one aimed at ensuring that the entire population is immunised against diseases such as tuberculosis, tetanus, yellow fever, polio, whooping cough and measles.

In a recent interview with the Chronicle, Health Minister, Dr Richard Van West-Charles explained that the current immunisation programme is a national health priority for 1986.

Minister Van West-Charles said that, apart from the concerted effort aimed at the nation's school children, the Ministry has also undertaken to immunise all women, five months pregnant and over, against tetanus. He also spoke of a programme of immunisation against tetanus aimed at the country's labour force.

However, the Ministry's work is severely hampered in some areas because of lack of proper storage facilities and the difficulties of the terrain to be covered.

Efforts to combat these problems have seen the Ministry collaborating with organisations like UNICEF and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) to acquire much needed equipment and vehicles.

A solar refrigerator was obtained recently under an agreement with PAHO and the World Health Organisation (WHO). This refrigerator was handed over to Region 8.

"Solar energy is a solution to many of our problems," he said, discussing storage problems faced in areas where the electricity supply is uncertain or non-existent.

Notwithstanding these problems, the Ministry's programme continues apace. "I think we are doing remarkably well," said Dr Van West-Charles.

So far for the year, more than fifty per cent of the nation's school children in the Ten Administrative Regions have been immunised, with Regions 2, 7, and 9 reflecting over seventy per cent immunisation.

It is envisaged that by year-end the Ministry would have achieved its target of 100 per cent immunisation of school children in Guyana.

In addition to the success realised in the schools' immunisation programme, the Ministry has managed to successfully launch immunisation programmes in a number of public and private sector companies.

Already, a number of workers at Banks DIH, Sanata Textile Mill, Guyana Distilleries and several rice factories across the country, have been immunised against tetanus. The programme will be shortly extended to include other companies, both private and public.

Minister Van West-Charles described the ongoing immunisation programme as being Guyanese in nature, where the intention is that all Guyanese be immunised against preventable diseases.

He underscored the point that a health nation is an important prerequisite to national development and that the Government of Guyana is intent on ensuring that Guyanese are healthy and enjoy a health lifestyle.

Accordingly, among the national health priorities for this year are maternity and child health, vector control, nutrition education, oral rehydration and environmental security.

/9274

CSO: 5440/015

HONG KONG

PHYSICIAN DISCUSSES TREATMENT OF LEPROSY IN HONG KONG

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 6 Oct 86 p 26

[Article by Brian Wong]

[Text]

THEY are the forgotten members of Hongkong society: misshapen, sad and lonely - shunned even by their own families.

Hongkong's leprosy patients are pitiful outcasts, with the public still unable to accept their presence on city streets or in public places.

Mr Chan, 66, (whose full name is withheld) has been in hospital since he contracted the disease in his 30s; at that time treatment was not available.

He and many other leprosy patients were kept on the remote island of Hei Ling Chau, and relatives with special permits were allowed to visit them only twice a year.

The patients were then moved to Lai Chi Kok Hospital in 1975, when the island turned into a drug rehabilitation centre.

Although it is in the urban area, it seldom receives visitors because it houses leprosy patients as well as mental patients.

Thirteen leprosy patients are now staying in the hospital, either dumped by their families, or seeking refuge after social rejection.

Many have been there for years and some are blind, physically handicapped and mentally disturbed.

Mr Chan, who says he has got used to the lonely life, has told nurses his only dream is to visit his wife and children in China, whom he has not seen for many years.

He has saved some money

from his monthly public assistance allowance for the trip, but Mr Chan does not know if his dream will ever come true.

The hospital will not allow him to go because the disease has blinded and crippled him.

An elderly woman patient in the hospital constantly feels rejected and has developed mental instability.

She complains that she is ignored by her husband, her only relative in Hongkong.

She sometimes cries when she feels lonely and when her limbs and bones ache.

The pain of these patients and their families win little sympathy from society except former leprosy patients, who often visit them, and the medical teams who look after them.

Dr Norman Honey, who has treated leprosy patients for 22 years, said the patients always felt rejected by their families and society.

He said it was not only a disease but a social stigma, with most of the patients feeling pressure from society and their families.

They have problems finding jobs because employers are usually wary of them and they face problems finding housing.

Dr Honey said the patients were driven to mental breakdowns because of the rejection and their deformities.

They felt resentful, annoyed, sensitive and wanted

to hide themselves away from the world.

"Please have concern for them. Don't reject them. They are human beings," Dr Honey said.

Government consultant dermatologist Dr Avery Chan said leprosy was not as horrible as other infectious diseases; it did not spread easily even within a family.

"People should not worry, as the disease has been controlled and is now curable," he said.

Dr Honey, who has been treating leprosy patients in Hongkong for 16 years, said: "I have never met a staff member who got the disease."

Panicked

Leprosy is a disease associated with poverty - bad food, poor living conditions and overcrowding.

But many people still believe that people who contract the disease must have been punished by ancestors or God for wrongdoing.

Dr Chan said families felt ashamed when a family member contracts the disease, and some even thought leprosy was a venereal disease.

Most patients panicked when they developed the disease and hid themselves away, avoiding friends and relatives and refusing to see doctors until it was too late.

A fisherman now being treated at the hospital carried

the disease for a long time before going to see a doctor.

Both Dr Chan and Dr Honey say anyone who suspects he has contracted the disease should seek treatment as early as possible: prompt treatment means deformity can be avoided.

"Why can't people change their attitudes towards leprosy?" Dr Chan asked.

He said the people of Hongkong had not been given enough information about the disease, so the age-old superstitions still prevailed.

As leprosy could be treated at Government out-patient clinics, hospitalisation was not usually necessary.

"Our policy is to treat the patients at home if possible," Dr Chan said.

He said keeping patients in hospital did not mean the disease would spread.

One of the reasons for doing this was that many patients were reluctant to take medicine regularly, he said.

"We want their disease cured and therefore we want to watch them take the medicine."

In 1957, a total of 436 new cases were detected in Hongkong and the number dropped to 255 in 1962, despite a sharp increase in population then due to a massive influx of immigrants. The number of new cases further dropped to 32 last year.

The disease in Hongkong was expected to be eradicated by the end of the next decade, Dr Honey said.

/13104

CSO: 5450/0022

HONG KONG

TOXIC GASES INCREASE INCIDENCE OF RESPIRATORY DISEASES

Hong Kong HONGKONG STANDARD in English 8 Oct 86 p 4

[Article by Jennifer Henricus]

[Text]

AT least half a million people living and working in Kwun Tong are plagued with respiratory diseases because they are forced to breathe toxic gases emitted from the thousands of industries in the area.

Doctors have confirmed that at least 70 percent of all patients who come to them for treatment have some kind of bronchial or respiratory disease. They revealed this to the Kwun Tong district board recently confirming other findings of a Hongkong University survey.

The university survey conducted among 400 Kwun Tong women and their children revealed that a number of them suffer with chronic respiratory problems induced by toxic gases.

And at least three people die every week from these diseases.

According to the survey conducted by the department of Community Medicine, eight percent of the women surveyed suffered with chronic cough and bronchitis while another 12 percent had phlegm and asthmatic problems.

The children of the women who participated in the survey were worse off than their mothers. They are aged between six and 13 and 14.7 percent of them have chronic cough while 11.2 percent have phlegm and asthmatic problems.

The survey established that the problems are linked to air pollution, which is highest in Kwun Tong, an industrial and residential zone with 10,000 factories and a population of 700,000.

The main pollutant is nitrogen dioxide — a toxic gas that has a choking and irritating effect on the human respiratory system, weakening the lungs and making them susceptible to disease, according to Jonathan Bower, senior environmental officer in charge of air quality at the Environmental Protection Department.

Residents and workers in Kwun Tong are exposed daily to anything between 300 and 500 micrograms of the toxic gas, when the acceptable amount is 150 micrograms, said Mr Bower.

The monitoring has shown that residents were exposed to as much as 1,351 micrograms in one particular hour and an

annual average of 150 micrograms. The safe average annual exposure should not be more than 80 micrograms, he explained.

This is very high and has shown an increasing trend recently, Mr Bower added.

The findings of the survey and its implications on the health of so many people has sparked shocked reactions from many quarters especially those concerned with the welfare of women, children and workers.

Legislative councillor Hui Yin-fat, who is also the director of the Hongkong Council of Social Service said he is shocked and worried by the findings especially the effects of air pollution on the health of children.

"Something must be done about it and done quickly", Mr Hui said, promising to raise the matter with the Government committee on family service and child care, at its next meeting.

Children are the most vulnerable to these poisonous substances and it is a shame if their lives are shortened or affected by pollution, said Mr Hui.

Fellow councillor, Mr Rita Fan said Government should take measures on

mediately to stop the situation from deteriorating further while more permanent measures are implemented to rid the air of toxic gases.

Dr Fung Kwok-wing who is concerned with the health and welfare of workers is equally shocked and concerned not just with the findings of the survey but the high levels of nitrogen dioxide detected by the EPD monitors.

As an executive committee member of the Hongkong Occupational Safety and Health Association Dr Fung said it is about time Government forced industrialists to take measures to reduce pollution.

"It might even be worthwhile for the Government to consider subsidising some of these pollution controls because in the long run it could save on its massive health bill," said Dr Fung, who is also the safety officer for the Hongkong University.

He also called for a comprehensive policy in the use of chemicals in industry saying that chemicals are currently used indiscriminately giving out toxic fumes that are hazardous to health.

The Kwun Tong District Board which has been at the Government for several years now trying to stop the slow poisoning of its residents feels they are fighting a losing battle.

Said Mr Lam Leung-ki, chairman of the board's en-

vironmental committee: "We have been trying to stop the pollution from the thousands of factories in the area but to no avail."

The only thing within our power to improve the environment in Kwun Tong is to plant trees, but ironically even this is not working out because even plants don't survive in the filthy atmosphere, Mr Lam said.

He added that the air is so polluted that one does not have to have sophisticated equipment to monitor it. All one has to do is take a walk, he quipped.

He recalled that the pollution had even caused the board some embarrassment recently when a visiting British MP who was scheduled to tour Kwun Tong and visit some of its factories decided to leave just ten minutes after he arrived.

"He just could not stand it," he said.

The University survey showed that Hongkong women suffering from chronic bronchial diseases related to air pollution was double the numbers of those affected in Japan.

In Japan only 4.7 percent of women surveyed had chronic cough in comparison to eight percent of Hongkong's women. In the case of chronic phlegm and asthmatic problems, in Japan it is 4.2 percent, in Hongkong it is 9.2 percent.

Japanese children were much less affected by respiratory diseases than

Hongkong's children.

In Hongkong 14.7 percent of the children have chronic cough while in Japan only 4.5 percent have it. Chronic phlegm and asthmatic problems are confined to 4.2 percent of Japan's children while 11.2 percent of Hongkong's children suffer with the same diseases.

Chronic bronchial disease is listed as the number seven killer in Hongkong claiming some 650 lives every year. However 400 of the victims are men, most of whom are smokers.

Dr Linda Koo who headed the research team estimates that of the 250 women victims, about 50 would be smokers, while the rest would be victims of diseases aggravated by the toxicity in the air they breathe.

The Environmental Protection Department is concerned about the high levels of air pollution and hopes that it will be reduced when air quality controls are introduced next year.

Mr Bower said ten air quality zones are to be declared with specific air quality objectives applied to each. He said factory owners will then be compelled to take measures to reduce the toxic gases and dust particles emitted from their factories.

HONG KONG

FACTORY IN KWUN TONG SOURCE OF CHOLERA

Hong Kong HONGKONG STANDARD in English 4 Oct 86 p 1

[Article by Jessie Yim]

[Text]

THE Government has traced a source of this summer's cholera outbreak to a food factory in Kwun Tong.

The factory, however, has not been shut down but continues to sell lunch boxes to hundreds of Kwun Tong area factory workers from mobile vans and supplies food for school students in the same district.

A senior official said the Urban Services Department is still working to prevent any illegal cooked food hawkers operating in the Kwun Tong industrial area but the food vans of this factory are still doing their rounds.

However, they have changed their methods of selling to avoid being charged with illegal food hawking, he said.

Instead of selling lunch boxes from the vans, customers have to buy food tickets at nearby localities.

With the tickets they collect their lunch boxes from the vans.

The Government is not sure it could win in court if it charged the factory with providing unfit food.

Besides, according to the department, the factory has cleaned up its operation.

The factory was traced after intensive surveys and testing of hundreds of thousands of food samples taken from possible sources of cholera germs.

It was raided once by USD officers in early August and more than 100 kg of food samples were seized for testing.

A senior Medical and Health Officer, Mr M C Chan, told *The Standard* that of the 22 cases confirmed during the cholera outbreak, 14 of them were related to Kwun Tong industrial area.

"Of these, 13 of the victims had taken lunch boxes from mobile food vans belonging to the same food factory.

"Judging from the study and materials we have gathered, we finally concluded that it is highly probable it was a source."

However, Dr Chan said there are difficulties in taking the factory to court.

"First, we do not have a food sample from the factory which is contaminated with cholera germs to be presented in court as evidence.

"On the day when USD officers raided the factory, it happened that it had stopped cooking any food.

"Second, there is still doubt in our conclusion.

This has made us cautious about taking any legal action," he added.

Indeed, all food samples taken to the Government laboratories for testing during the period of the cholera outbreak showed only negative results.

In the other cholera cases, Dr Chan said they were sporadic with no common factors among them.

"These cases have no epidemiological link with the Kwun Tong cases," he said.

The other eight cases occurred in Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei and Sha Tin.

In concluding the medical study, Dr Chan said: "The source of the suspected food is most likely from food hawkers, particularly mobile vans selling lunch boxes."

He added that while the food factory had been traced, other food premises and food factories that also supply lunch boxes could not be excluded.

On taking action against the factory, Kwun Tong District Hygiene Superintendent, Mr Law Shek-kai, said the five mobile food vans are operating in the Kwun Tong industrial area only.

"The factory is now trying to diversify. I know some schools in Kwun

Tong have already ordered food from them," he said.

The cholera outbreak took place from July 31 to August 19. Within that period, Hongkong was declared a cholera-infected area.

In addition to 22 local cases of cholera, there were a number of imported cases this year.

/13104

CSO: 5450/0021

HONG KONG

NEW CHOLERA CASE DIAGNOSED IN KOWLOON

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 8 oct 86 p 2

[Text] AN ELDERLY woman in Kowloon was yesterday confirmed to be suffering from cholera - the first local case for two months.

Because there is no evidence of an outbreak, the Government has decided not to declare Hongkong a cholera-infected area, but will crack down on illegal food hawkers in the district.

Mrs Tang Sim, a 78-year-old grandmother who is believed to have contracted the disease at her Lok Fu estate flat, was in satisfactory condition in the isolation ward at Princess Margaret Hospital last night.

Her 21-year-old grandson, Mr Shum Chung-kee, was also admitted to the same ward in a satisfactory condition after he was found to be a carrier of cholera bacteria.

Mr Shum is believed to have been in contact with the source of the disease in the kitchen, in an open corridor where his grandmother al-

ways placed her cooked food.

According to a Medical and Health Department spokesman, Mrs Tang is the 23rd local cholera victim so far this year.

The last person to contract the infection was a 72-year-old Yuen Long resident in August.

No fatal cases have been recorded locally, he said, although a 24-year-old Japanese air stewardess, who contracted cholera last month in Jakarta, died in Hongkong early this month.

After the confirmation of the Wong Tai Sin case yesterday, the anti-cholera team from the Urban Services Department immediately disinfected the victim's home and the other five members of her family.

Officers from the Medical and Health Department also gave the family medical examinations and preventive drugs.

/13104
CSO: 5450/0024

INDIA

FAMINE RELIEF PROGRAM SPREADS GUINEA WORM

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Oct 86 p 2

[Text]

Jodhpur, Oct 8 (PTI)—Rajasthan Government's famine relief programme is contributing to the spread of guinea worm disease in rural areas of the western part of the State, says Sylvester Johnson head of the Zoology Department of Jodhpur University here.

Under the programme, the State Government built new water tanks or step wells to provide drinking water to villagers in the desert region where famine and drought are recurring features.

"This is a source of water contamination as the infected person comes into contact with well water, he says and adds that draw wells are comparatively safer.

When an infected person climbs down the steps of the well and enters water to fill his bucket the guinea worm on his skin surface releases larvae into the water. The water thus contaminated becomes a source of infection.

About 40 per cent of the peo-

ple are suffering from this crippling disease and another 47 per cent of the population is at risk, Dr Johnson says.

The State Government has spent Rs four lakh on the guinea worm eradication programme during the current financial year. The Swedish International Development Agency and UNICEF have taken up a Rs 13 crore joint project to eradicate guinea worm infection in Dungarpur and Banswara districts through the health education programme.

The disease manifests itself when this worm, each two to three feet long, crawls near the skin surface in its attempt to come out. In the process it causes immense pain to the person. When the worm breaks, the problem is more severe.

There is no drug which could destroy guinea worm before the situation becomes critical. Surgical removal of guinea worm is the only way, Dr Johnson says.

/9274

CSO: 5450/0020

INDIA

GASTROENTERITIS, CHOLERA BREAK OUT IN BENGAL DISTRICT

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 6 Oct 86 p 2

[Text]

Basanti (South 24-Parganas), Oct. 5: Thirty persons, including women and children, have died of gastro-enteritis and cholera in the Basanti, Gosaba and Canning areas of South 24-Parganas district during the past week. However, according to unofficial sources, the toll over 40.

The district magistrate, Mr Arun Bhattacharya, said here today that he had asked the block development officers (BDOs) to inquire into the deaths and collect the names and addresses of the deceased. He said a large number of people affected by the recent floods were suffering from enteric diseases in Bishnupur, Baruipur, Joynagar, Basanti, Gosaba and

Canning.

Basanti, where 14 cholera and gastro-enteritis deaths have been reported so far, is the worst-affected area. The local BDO, Mr Shanti Dulal Dutta, said the deceased belonged to Sonakhali, Simultala, Jhorkhali, Titkumar, Talda and Kheria villages. He said that the Fulmalancha, Amjhara, Choravaidya, Jotishpur and Bharatpur gram panchayat areas were the worst affected. The medicines that were being supplied to the affected people were inadequate, he added.

Mr Subhas Naskar, RSP MLA from Basanti, confirmed the deaths, adding that the total could be much higher. He wanted the flood-hit people to be shifted to safer places and

demanding an adequate supply of medicines. Water being supplied to the local people needed to be disinfected, he added.

Nine persons had died in Gosaba and seven in Canning during the past three or four days, according to the sub-divisional officer (Sadar), Mr S. Chakraborty. He said the district chief medical officer, Dr A.K. Mukherjee, had been asked to rush medical teams to the affected areas. "We have requested the health department to supply adequate medicines to help us cope with the alarming situation in the flood-hit areas of the district," he added.

Of the 30 dead, only 16 have so far been identified and their names sent to the district headquarters.

/9274

CSO: 5450/0018

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

HEMORRHAGIC DENGUE FEVER--Six persons have died and about 10 others are being treated at two local hospitals in Pontianak since hemorrhagic dengue fever began to plague West Kalimantan Province in September. A local health official admitted that the disease had affected seven out of eight districts in the Province. [Summary] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 14 Oct 86 p 12 BK] /9738

CSO: 5400/4308

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

TB INFECTION FITTED BY SIMPLE CATALYTIC MODEL

Beijing ZHONGHUA JIEHE HE HUXIXI JIBING ZAZHI [CHINESE JOURNAL OF TUBERCULOSIS AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES] in Chinese Vol 9 No 3, 12 Jun 86 pp 163-165, 190

[Article by Li Tingjie [2621 1693 2638], et al., of Guangdong Medical and Pharmaceutical College, Guangzhou: "A Preliminary Study of the Fitting of Natural Tuberculosis Infection by Simple Catalytic Model"]

[Summary] The fundamental principle, fitted conditions and method for a simple catalytic model are described. The forces of natural tuberculosis infection in both Jiexi County and the town of Chaozhou, Guangdong Province, in 1973 using this model, were fitted and satisfactory results were obtained. The forces of tuberculosis infection were 0.017 and 0.040 respectively. This indicates that an average of 17 and 40 per 1,000 susceptible persons would be infected with tuberculosis by contact each year. (Paper received 15 January 1985; finalized 2 May 1985.)

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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

TB COMPLICATING SILICOSIS AT MINE ANALYZED

Beijing ZHONGHUA JIEHE HE HUXIXI JIBING ZAZHI [CHINESE JOURNAL OF TUBERCULOSIS AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES] in Chinese Vol 9 No 3, 12 Jun 86 pp 174-175, 191

[Article by Wei Xianzeng [7614 6343 1073] of the Kunming Metallurgy Hospital of Prophylaxis and Treatment of Occupational Diseases, Yunnan: "Analysis of Tuberculosis Complicating Silicosis at Five Metal Mine, Yunnan Province"]

[Summary] An investigation of cases of silicosis associated with tuberculosis at a five metal mine, including tin, iron, lead-zinc, etc., was carried out. The average rate of complication with tuberculosis was 20.2 percent. This rate rose with each phase of silicosis: phase "I" was 8.9 percent, "II" 21.4 percent and "III" up to 80.4 percent. The incidence of silicosis and rate of complication with tuberculosis were directly influenced by the content of silica in dusts and drilling conditions (concentration of powder).

It is worthwhile to raise the level of diagnosis of late silico-tuberculosis. After the cases of silicosis became complicated with tuberculosis, the disease progressed quickly, with bad prognosis and troublesome cure. Therefore, it is necessary to take preventive measures against tuberculosis actively and to give prophylactic chemotherapy to patients suffering from silicosis. (Paper received 2 May 1985; finalized 15 October 1985.)

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9717

CSO: 5400/4100

PORTUGAL

BREAKDOWN OF AIDS CASES REPORTED ANALYZED

Lisbon TAL & QUAL in Portuguese 26 Sep 86 p 6

[Excerpt] From 1983 until 30 June of this year, 28 cases of AIDS, 11 of them fatal, were reported in Portugal. The victims include the singer Antonio Variacoes, the hairdresser Ataide and a boy only 10 years old thought to have been infected by a transfusion of blood contaminated with the virus.

According to a study made by the Center for the Epidemiological Control of Communicable Diseases at the Ricardo Jorge Institute, one case and no deaths were reported in 1983; two cases and one death in 1984; 15 cases and six deaths in 1985; and 10 cases and four deaths in 1986, all during the first quarter of this year. It has also been established that 54 percent of the patients were between 20 and 39 years of age, and 96 percent were male.

Concerning the four cases reported in the second quarter of this year, the study reported that all four patients were men, three of them were homosexuals, and all were between 20 and 39 years of age. The fourth patient was a heterosexual man of 37, who lived in Zaire from 1983 to 1985.

5157

CSO:5400/2407

SUDAN

BRIEFS

MYSTERIOUS FEVER—The mysterious fever which has afflicted the population of parts of the northern region of Sudan remains out of control. Treatment applied to the unknown illness has not been effective and hospitals in the region are overflowing with patients and have spilled over to Atbara and Khartoum. Dongola and Merawi were the main affected areas, but it is now spreading. The Ministry of Health are unable to say what causes the fever but the local people have named it Maltese fever. [Text] [Khartoum SUDAN TIMES in English 28 Sep 86 p 1] /9274

CSO: 5400/4603

TURKEY

'DIARRHEA' EPIDEMIC CONTINUES

Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 10 Aug 86 pp 3, 13

[Text] The continued above-average temperatures for the time of the year has caused a great increase in cases of diarrhea in the Eastern Black Sea and the Central Anatolia Regions.

While diarrhea claimed five lives in the Develli District of Kayseri, the number of persons suffering from diarrhea increases with every passing day. As 104 persons suffering from diarrhea applied to the Corum State Hospital, Dr Asiye Nuhoglu, Assistant Professor and Head of the Mother and Child Care Branch of the Medical Faculty of the Black Sea University said that the treatment of children with drugs is dangerous. At the same time, Mehmet Ali Gulsoy, Director of health and Social Assistance at Yozgat, said that 35,000 packets of diarrhea medicine was distributed in the province in the past month.

While an epidemic of diarrhea took the lives of 5 children in the Develli District of Kayseri, a further 100 children were placed under medical care.

Officials stated that diarrhea was widespread in Eastern and South Eastern Anatolia as well, and said that there had been a great increase in cases of diarrhea since the beginning of the month, particularly in the countryside where lack of water supplies had assumed serious proportions.

Dr Asiye Nuhoglu, Assistant Professor and Head of the Mother and Child Care branch of the Black Sea University, said the following in connection with the diarrhea epidemic in the Eastern Black Sea Region in recent months: "Five million children die of diarrhea every year. The World Health Organization and UNICEF provide various types of aid, particularly to developing countries. Most evidence indicates that infant mortality is around 90 per thousand and many of the deaths are due to diarrhea. Mortality due to diarrhea is higher among infants with nutritional problems than among the adequately fed. The long-established treatment by drugs must yield to treatment of orally administered fluid. In cases where there is not clearly established that one is dealing with microbic diarrhea, drug-therapy must definitely be avoided."

Assistant Professor Dr Asiye Muhoglu said that infants with diarrhea can be treated at home, and spelt out the following principles that mothers must follow in the treatment of children with diarrhea:

"The most important thing is to replace the water and minerals that the child has lost. Such a fluid can be prepared at home. Two tablespoons of sugar, one teaspoon of culinary carbonate, and one teaspoon of table salt should be dissolved in a litre of boiled water that has been left to cool. One teacup of this fluid should be given to children under the age of one; children over the age of one should be given one water glass of the fluid. In addition, children should be given liquid nourishment according to their capacity. They may be given boiled water that has been cooled, lemonade, yogurt, yogurt diluted with water, peach or apple juice and so forth...Yogurt, soft-boiled rice, boiled potato, and defatted soups may also be given. Children with diarrhea must be nourished without fail. But mother's milk is the best medicine for diarrhea..."

13184/12624

CSO: 5400/2401

TURKEY

MORE DIE IN 'DIARRHEA' EPIDEMIC

Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 9 Sep 86 p 8

[Article by M. Kemal Aycicek: "Diarrhea Victims"]

[Excerpts] Trabzon - The diarrhea epidemic which has spread to various areas of the country recently and is affecting children in particular has caused the deaths of 14 children between the ages of 0-4 in 15 days in the eastern Black Sea region.

In Rize, a city in the area where 680 people were admitted to the hospital with diarrhea in 6 days, a "diarrhea health center" has been set up and 118 children have been treated there for diarrhea.

In Trabzon, [14] children died in a 15-day period as a result of the rapidly spreading diarrhea epidemic in the eastern Black Sea area. Fourteen children were treated for diarrhea in Espiye also.

680 Admissions

The hospitals in Trabzon, Giresun, Rize and Gumushane provinces and districts in the provinces have reported that 680 patients were admitted for diarrhea in the last 6 days and that 118 patients were treated at Rize, 160 at Trabzon, 25 at Gumushane, 30 at Giresun and a total of 56 at the Bayburt, Surnene and Vakfikebir state hospitals.

Surgical Dr Osman Yildizlar, head surgeon at Trabzon Teaching Hospital, and Surgical Dr Asiye Nuhoglu, head of the Mother-Child Health Department at Black Sea University Faculty of Medicine, appealed to families to bring any child suffering from diarrhea to the hospital immediately.

Trabzon Health and Social Assistance Deputy Provincial Director Dr Teoman Ismailoglu said, "Preventive measures are being taken at our hospitals, health centers and clinics. Special medicines effective against diarrhea are being distributed as needed to each center. The rise in diarrhea cases at the hospitals shows that the public has become more aware in this regard. This way, early treatment of diarrhea patients is possible."

Rize State Hospital head surgeon, Dr Ilhan Birben, said that a special diarrhea health center had been established under the direction of two doctors at the hospital and that 118 children had been treated for diarrhea so far.

TURKEY

THERMAL POWER PLANT POLLUTION FEARED

Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 20 Aug 86 pp 1, 14

[Article by Selma Guven]

[Text] Ankara--It is claimed that while no industrial enterprise is built in residential areas in developed Western countries, as a result of pressures by conservationist groups, the opposite is happening in Turkey. The government's decision to allow two thermoelectric stations, based on imported coal, be built on the Istanbul-Tekirdag coastal strip is being shown as the latest proof of this attitude.

It is argued that this decision will lead to the pollution of the Thracian coast of the Marmara Sea to add to the pollution of the Golden Horn, the Bosphorous, and certain parts of the Marmara Sea.

The rather soft attitude of the Turkish government on the subject of thermoelectric stations has emboldened foreigners. The Swiss BBC (Brown Boveri) and the American Bechtel firms wrested from the Turkish government permission to establish a thermoelectric station between Tekirdag and Istanbul, on one of Turkey's most beautiful coasts.

On the other hand, the Australian Seapac firm will establish a thermoelectric station of nearly 200 megawatt capacity. Other Western countries have also been emboldened by the Turkish decision to allow thermoelectric stations to be built on scenic coastal strips. A Franco-Italian consortium has made a proposal to the Turkish government for a new thermoelectric station.

Government officials involved have said that environmental pollution is not an important issue in the case of thermoelectric stations.

13184/12624
CSO: 5400/2401

HONG KONG

BRIEFS

MISTAKEN RABIES DIAGNOSIS--A lorry driver earlier suspected of having rabies died from viral meningitis and encephalitis, a post-mortem showed yesterday. A Medical and Health Department spokesman confirmed the 41-year-old driver, who was bitten by a dog on September 19, did not die of rabies. The driver was bitten in Fanling and admitted to Princess Margaret Hospital in a semi-conscious condition where he died a week later. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 1 Oct 86 p 3] /13104

CSO: 5450/0025

TURKEY

RABIES QUARANTINE IN TWENTY VILLAGES

Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 28 Aug 86 p 9

[Article by Bulent Cicek]

[Text] Quarantine measures are being stepped up fast in certain villages where rabies may spread due to the continued unseasonably warm weather.

While 18 villages in Ordu are under quarantine, 35 people in two villages of the Kayseri Province are facing the danger of developing rabies.

This is how the 35 people in the Kavak and Sogulcak villages of the Yahyalı District of Kayseri came to being placed under the supervision of the Provincial and District Directorate of Social Welfare developed.

A rabid wild dog from the mountains savaged a herd of sheep. The villagers, unaware that the dog was rabid, slaughtered some of the dying sleep and ate them. When the surviving sheep developed rabies and died, the danger became evident and 215 persons in these two villages were inoculated against rabies. The livestock which developed rabies was destroyed by the veterinary directorate. The following are the people "who might develop rabies at any moment:"

Hatice, Ali, Suleyman, Hatice, Mehmet, Fatma, Dondu Erdogan, Akkiz Emine, Hatice, Aline Egeroi, Hatice, Ayse, Emis, Fatma, Patma, Ayse Karagoz, Humeyra, Emine, Zehra, Hatice, Kevser Kasikoi, Gurdane Katirci, Sevket Bahoivan, Asiye Bibar, Durmus Kalkan, Sami Ciftci, Zahra Apak, Abdullah, Ayse, Mine, Munevver, Kirik, Gulsum, Raziye, and Meryem Yilmaz. [Names as published]

What The Experts Say

According to the "Rabies" Department of the Istanbul Provincial Veterinary Directorate and the Pendik Veterinary Control and Research Institute, the villagers who ate the meat of the sheep infected with the rabies virus do not run a 100% "risk of developing rabies." The expert pointed out that it was not very likely that the ingested rabies virus could reach the nerves, saying: "It is unlikely that all the sheep were infected with rabies. Even so, those who have eaten the meat of these sheep should be concerned. Nevertheless, there should be no panic. It is important to take measures, but the chances that these people will become rabid and die are remote."

The experts said that the rabies virus could spread more easily in warm weather and that it would be useful to maintain a quarantine in the villages where this danger existed.

Eighteen Villages In Ordu

Nearly 8,000 head of domestic animals were given prophylactic vaccination in the Ordu Province villages where quarantine measures are in force due to rabies and other animal diseases. Currently, 18 villages in Ordu are under quarantine due to rabies, 3 villages due to foot-and-mouth disease, one village each due to mange and anthrax [Turkish: sarbon].

According to the authorities, there has been an increase in livestock diseases this summer, specially in rabies, compared with previous years. The following are the Ordu villages where a 6-month ban is in force against livestock going in or out of the area and against slaughtering animals for food: Sahincili Quarter of Ordu Provincial centre and Karaoglu village of Ordu Central District, Elbey Quarter of Aybasti District Centre and Alankont village in the same District, Camas sub-district and Danisman, Cavusbasi, Mesebuku, and Goller village (the latter also has cases of foot-and-mouth disease) of Fatsa District, Kusoulu, Senyurt, Istiklal, Selviler, Kaledere, Cigdem villages of Unye District, Dip Quarter of Korgan District Centre, and the Eski Akcalan and Derbent villages of Kumru district.

The Yerdere and Gerdesen villages of Mesudiye District and the Kutlular nomad camping site in Ordu are under quarantine due to foot-and-mouth disease, and Camisalan village and Camisalan nomad camping-site of Cambasi nomad's summer grazing grounds of the Ordu Provincial Centre due to mange.

Provincial Governor: 'Current Measures Will Be Maintained'

Yuksel Cavusoglu, the Governor of Kayseri Province, made the following statement in connection with the rabies incident at Yahyali: "Necessary measures have been taken. Health and hygiene measures are in force. So far, we have not had a single substantial case. If any of the villagers under constant scrutiny takes a turn for the worse, he or she will be taken to the hospital in Kayseri. We have had ample quantities of anti-rabies vaccine sent over from Kayseri. All residents in the area are being given the anti-rabies vaccine. I believe that we shall get off lightly thanks to the measures taken."

According to Ali Macit Soylu, Provincial Director of Health and Social Assistance, health teams specially sent from Kayseri continue their activities in connection with rabies. The villagers are kept under constant scrutiny at the temporary health centre set at Kavak and Sogulcak, two closely located villages.

13184/12624
CSO: 5400/2403

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

BERNAMA ON NEW PEST SPREADING TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

BK300535 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0309 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 30 October (OANA-BERNAMA)--A new pest--an insect called "heteropsylla incisa"--is spreading through the Pacific to Southeast Asia with devastating effect on leucaena plants, commonly known as "petai belalang".

According to a report in the latest edition of THE PLANTER, a monthly publication of the Incorporated Society of Malaysian Planters (ISP), the pest has spread to the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Leucaena is a crop with many uses. It produces protein efficiently and economically and is also used in land reclamation, erosion control, water conservation, reforestation and soil improvement programs. In the Philippines and Indonesia, this legume is frequently used as a shade tree in cocoa and coffee cultivation. Locally, the plant's young pods are consumed as a vegetable.

"By all accounts, leucaena is an economically important plant and is an exciting new crop being exploited in many developing countries," said THE PLANTER. The ISP said a research program should be carried out to search for and evaluate natural enemies for biological control of the pest.

The insect, reported to be spreading through the Pacific to Southeast Asia, is believed to be native to Central and/or South America. The insects were found in Batu Tiga in Selangor in July this year.

The insects lay their eggs on unopened leaflets and feed on young fresh leaves of the leucaena plant. Within a couple of months, many young shoots had dried up and the plants were completely defoliated within two and a half months.

Current methods to protect the plant involving the use of contact or systemic insecticides are too expensive and will offset the benefits of growing the plant as an economic crop for small farms. The only viable way is through biological control and this will require a search for effective natural enemies in the area of origin of the pest.

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CSO: 5400/4310

GHANA

BRIEFS

FARMERS ASSURED ON LOCUST THREAT--The Ministry of Agriculture has assured farmers that the insects that have attacked crops in some parts of the country are multicolored grasshoppers and not locusts. A statement issued in Accra said there is therefore no danger of locusts invading Ghana and farmers should not be unduly alarmed. The statement said regional plant quarantine and protection officers of the crop services department have been provided with some quantities of sprayers and chemicals to repulse any attack of the grasshoppers. It added that the head office of the plant quarantine and protection unit in Accra is in a position to support the efforts of any region in controlling the pests should the need arise. The statement said locusts reported to have invaded the northern part of Burkina Faso have been completely wiped out with the assistance of the food and agriculture organization. It added that these locusts are being successfully combated in other parts of the Sahelian zone. [Text] [Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 23 Oct 86 AB] /12624

CSO: 5400/35

INDIA

RESEARCHER REFUTES CLAIMS ON SCAB DISEASE CURE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Oct 86 p 6

[Text]

SRINAGAR, October 6: A scientist at the Sheri-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) here has contested the claim of his counterparts in Himachal Pradesh of having evolved apple varieties resistant to the scab disease.

Himachal Pradesh researchers claim to have evolved four varieties—ambrod, amstarking, ambroyal and ambrich—all resistant to scab, which has taken a heavy toll of fruits in Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir.

The SKUAST researcher, Dr. K. D. Farooqui, pointed out that it appeared that the Himachal hybrids had been evolved by crossing royal delicious and starking delicious varieties. He said the selection of the parent for imparting resistance to the scab fungus was questionable as the ambri variety was highly susceptible to the disease. As a matter of fact, ambri fell victim to the scab disease as far back as 1913, resulting in its decline in the valley.

Tests had shown that no resistance had so far been observed either in India or elsewhere in the other varieties used for evolving the hybrids, he said. The hybrids evolved from the varieties used by the Himachal Pradesh researchers were found to be susceptible to scab. None of the crosses showed any degree of resistance.

According to Dr. Farooqui, a hybrid should show not only vertical resistance to scab but also horizontal resistance. Horizontal resistance means that the hybrid is resistant to several strains of the scab fungus. Evolving hybrids which incorporate both horizontal and vertical resistance is a time-consuming process.

He observed that it had taken American researchers more than two decades to evolve apple hybrid resistant to scab. Premature claims by researchers about evolving scab resistant varieties of apple could harm the interests of orchard owners, he added.

/9274

CSO: 5450/0019

PORTUGAL

SHARKA DISEASE ATTACKS ORCHARDS IN ALGARVE

Alarming Spread Reported

Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 19 Sep 86 p 12

[Text] A disease attacking apricot, peach and plum orchards in the Algarve to an alarming extent has led the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture, Fishing and Food to take steps to aid the fruit-growing operations affected.

The great increase in the number of plum orchards planted in the Algarve has led to heavier imports of trees from Spain in recent years. Diseases have been detected in the imports, "although the plants involved were accompanied by the required health certificates."

The joint communique from the two ministries says that the viral disease identified as "sharka," which has already been reported in other European countries and on the Mediterranean coast, poses a serious threat and requires that "rigorous measures" be adopted. Since there is no means of curing the disease, the preventive measures required include the use of varieties and grafting stock free of the virus and the uprooting and burning of infected plants, and even entire orchards when 10 to 15 percent of the planting is infected.

The communique said that the "sharka" disease has taken on "alarming proportions" in the Algarve, and is now affecting about 60,000 trees in an area of about 100 hectares.

Virus Controlled

Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 26 Sep 86 p 11

[Text] Technicians have established control in the zones suffering from the "sharka" virus, which has affected more than 60,000 trees throughout the region, in an area of about 100 hectares, the deputy regional director for agriculture in the Algarve has announced.

Faustino Barradas emphasized that "There is no reason for alarm," because this situation is not a new one, the disease having first been reported about 5 years ago.

"There is no cure for the disease, and the only solution is to uproot and burn the trees," this technician explained to the ANOP. He added that the necessary conditions for going ahead with a campaign to eliminate the virus have now been established.

To this end, he stressed, the farms affected will be aided by measures jointly decreed by the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture recently.

The deputy regional director for agriculture in the Algarve further stressed that the number of farmers affected will not exceed about 20, and that rapid elimination of the disease will be possible.

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CSO:5400/2407

SENEGAL

BRIEFS

INSECTICIDE SPRAY PLANE CRASHES—Dakar, 9 Oct (AFP)—An American DC-7 plane that was to start the new campaign of spraying insecticides to combat locusts crashed Thursday morning near Dakar, it was learned from an American source in the Senegalese capital. Two members of the 4-man crew were killed in the accident and another was wounded, the same source specified. According to the latest information, the plane crashed in the sea at 0719 GMT shortly after taking off from Dakar-Yoff Airport. [Text] [Paris AFP in French 0929 GMT 9 Oct 86 AB] /9274

CSO: 5400/25

SOUTH AFRICA

COLD SPELL DELAYS LOCUST INVASION

Expected in West Transvaal, Northern Cape

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 9 Oct 86 p 8

[Article by Andre du Toit]

[Text]

The cold weather of the past few days has only temporarily thwarted the locust onslaught in the Western Transvaal and Northern Cape, and farmers are still preparing to exterminate the insects as they appear.

The first locust eggs started hatching in mid September and, in the following two weeks, the outbreak grew six times faster than last year when large swarms devastated crops and grazing.

So far, most outbreaks have been in the Northern Cape, Western Transvaal and southern Free State and more than 170

teams are geared up to fight the menace.

The agricultural extension officer stationed at Vryburg, Mr Jannie van den Heever, said that newly hatched grasshoppers could easily be killed off and simply keeled over when they smelled the locust poison.

"That is why it is so important that we should get them now before they start flying."

Although the cold weather of the past few days had slowed down the forming of swarms, farmers in the Vryburg district could still expect the worst if they did not act immediately and notify his office of new outbreaks, Mr van den

Heever said.

But he is confident that farmers will be able to contain the swarms.

GRASSHOPPERS

Mr Jan van Dyk, whose farm, Verneuklaagte, borders on Bophuthatwana, discovered newly born grasshoppers yesterday afternoon.

Mr van Dyk said locust eradication in the independent homeland had always been inadequate but, in the past few weeks, teams had moved in to wipe out the insects.

Another complaint Mr van Dyk mentioned was absentee landowners in the district who did nothing to combat outbreaks. He agreed with the re-

cently announced measures that could lead to a fine of up to R3 000 for farmers who failed to report outbreaks of locusts.

Mr Johan Weessels, whose farm is situated about 10 km from Mr van Dyk's, also discovered a large swarm of tiny day-old grasshoppers yesterday afternoon.

"But there is nothing I can do now because we have to wait for pumps which have to be brought from Kimberley," he told The Star.

Pumps are supplied by the Department of Agriculture and Economic Marketing, which also organises the teams of volunteers engaged in wiping out the locusts.

Swarms Difficult to Pinpoint

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 9 Oct 86 p 8

[Text]

Now you see them, now you don't ... evasive swarms of locusts are winging their way across the Western Transvaal and Northern Cape.

"I saw cars pulling in

here with their wind-screen wipers and radiators all clogged up with locusts," said a garage attendant in Vryburg.

"Locusts? I have never seen them ... only heard

of swarms descending on farms," was the comment of a Vryburg shop assistant.

And some inhabitants of Vryburg only stare at inquirers in disbelief when the word "locust" is mentioned.

"Never heard of any locusts," more than one inhabitant of this town in the Northern Cape replied, although Vryburg has teams at the ready to descend on any swarm

that eats its way into this cattle-farming district.

Even the local agricultural extension officer, Mr Jannie van den Heever, had to consult a wall-sized map and make a half-a-dozen telephone calls to outlying homesteads before he could pinpoint a swarm.

"You never know which way they will travel," complained one farmer, Mr Jannie van Dyk.

Farmers also find the

average swarm's eating habits somewhat puzzling. "They won't put their mouths to peanuts or sorghum," more than one farmer told *The Star*.

Yet another farmer could recall instances when a hungry swarm ate its way through a field of peanuts.

Most farmers agreed locusts had a liking for maize, but the worst damage was to grazing.

Farmers Engage in Grasshopper Vendetta

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 9 Oct 86 p 8

[Text]

Fighting and monitoring locusts have become quite a personal thing for some Northern Cape farmers.

A good example is that of Mr Johan Wemels, who farms in the Vryburg district.

He grits his teeth as he gives a glimpse of his own involvement in the battle:

"I worked night after night earlier this year to wipe them out before they could lay eggs.

"As soon as they came to rest for the night in the late afternoon, I was there to kill them with poison.

"But do you think that was enough? Oh no, these locusts are as quick as a flash to lay their eggs.

MARKED LANDING AREAS

"I know because I marked the areas where those swarms landed. I wanted to see what happens when the rain comes.

"And at exactly the same spots where those swarms came to rest — that is where the new generation of grasshoppers are making their appearance.

"But, oh, I'm ready for them this time.

"As far as I'm concerned, not a single grasshopper on my farm will live long enough to become a flier locust again."

Farmer Notes Fast Reproduction

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 9 Oct 86 p 8

[Article by Hannes de Wet]

[Text] The active love life of locusts helps explain why these insects can so easily become a plague.

They have nymphomaniac tendencies, says Mr Jan van Dyk, a Vryburg district farmer.

Mr van Dyk is not just guessting. He has witnessed more than one torrid locust love session.

His first-hand account:

"I stood watching them in the late afternoon soon after they came to rest for the night.

"That is when the fertilised females normally lay their eggs. That, in itself, is something to see.

"She digs a hole in soft soil with her tail and then stretches it like a concertina to lay the eggs up to 8 cm beneath the surface.

"In any case, while she is doing this, there is a male standing next to her-- waiting.

"As soon [as] the female has laid all her eggs, the male locust makes his move.

"Before long the willing female is fertilised once again for her next few hundred eggs. This is happening all the time, all over the place.

"I tell you, man, it is simply amazing to see how energetic these insects are."

/9274

CSO: 5400/36

SOUTH AFRICA

LOCUST 'COUNTER-INSURGENCY' BEGINS

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 3 Oct 86 p 1

[Article by Hannes de Wet]

[Text]

A huge commando-type offensive has been launched to fight the locust and grasshopper outbreak which is threatening farmers in parts of the Cape and the Orange Free State.

"This is like a military operation to nip a form of terrorism in the bud," said Mr J L Vosloo, director of soil protection at the Department of Agriculture and Economic Marketing.

The backbone of the anti-locust force was the farmers themselves, who acted in a

part-time capacity as combating officials, using State equipment such as hakkies and pumps for spraying poison.

More than 170 teams had already been deployed, said Mr Vosloo.

This became necessary because the present outbreak had escalated about six times faster than last year's plague.

"Our best chance is to act now. The enemy are still moving in neat and orderly platoons. As long as we know where they are, we can wipe them out fairly easily.

"Grasshoppers are also young and more vulnerable than locusts in the flying stage.

"That is why it is vital that people be on the lookout for swarms," Mr Vosloo said.

The department warned yesterday that people who failed to report locusts could be fined up to R5 000 for a first offence.

Mr Vosloo said his department met every morning in Pretoria to discuss strategy. This was done in consultation with regional "locust commandants" who co-ordinated local offensives.

"The system we use is actually organised the same way as the Defence Force's commando network," Mr Vosloo said.

/9274

CSO: 5400/34

VIETNAM

HANOI REVIEWS CROP PEST STATUS FOR 10 PAST DAYS

OW031212 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 31 Oct 86

[Text] The Vegetation Protection Department has issued the following notice reviewing the crop pest status over the past 10 days and forecasting the status in the coming period:

In the northern provinces, army worms and larvae have appeared in large numbers and ravaged the main and late rice crops in several areas--including Ha Nam Ninh, Hanoi, and Hai Hung--with a density averaging 3 to 6 insects per square meter and 15 to 20 per square meter in areas where the infestation rate is high, or even 160 per square meter in some isolated cases.

Scattered appearances of harmful insects have been reported in Nghe Tinh Province; additionally these appear to be at a low density. Rice bugs have seriously ravaged the rice in the milk stage in Nghe Tinh and Thanh Hoa, averaging several thousands per square meter. Many districts have captured tons of bugs. More than 1,000 hectares of rice in Thanh Hoa have been damaged. In the Midlands and Red River Delta Provinces, insects have caused partial damage.

Brown planthoppers and rice fulgorid have caused partial damage to insect-infested rice strains in some places, averaging 4,000 to 5,000 insects per square meter in areas where the infestation rate is high.

Stem borers have ravaged 26,000 hectares of the early blossoming 10th-month rice and tillering winter-spring rice in the Mekong Delta provinces, with a proliferation density of 3 to 5 insects per square meter and 10 to 15 per square meter in areas where the infestation rate is high.

Buoy-shaped worms have damaged 27,000 hectares of the early winter-spring rice and tillering late 10th-month rice in Tien Giang, Hau Giang, Long An, and other localities, with a density averaging 5 to 7 per square meter and 30 to 40 per square meter in areas where the infestation rate is high.

Rice caseworms have ravaged 26,000 hectares of the tillering and budding 10th-month rice in the Mekong Delta provinces, with a proliferation density of 4 to 5 per square meter and 15 per square meter in areas where the

infestation rate is high. Damage caused by these insects in the central Vietnam coastal provinces is not serious.

As far as other crops are concerned, spot blight has developed strongly and affected winter corn leaves, at a 30 to 50 disease incidence per square meter and at level 2 to 3 [not further identified].

Blackcut worms in age group 3 to 4 [timeframe not further provided] have caused partial damage, with a density of 1.5-2 per square meter.

Leafminer flies have affected soybeans, with a density of 20 per square meter. Common scab has ravaged 0.5 percent of the total acreage of crops.

It is forecast that in the coming period, in the northern provinces, army worms will continue to ravage the main rice and late 10th-month rice plantings in some areas while black cut worms will cause partial damage to winter crops.

In the southern provinces, stem borers, leaf folders, and buoy-shaped worms will continue to develop and cause widespread damage to the 10th-month and early winter-spring rice crops. Brown leaf spot will continue ravaging the valleys of the Hau and Tien rivers.

Localities should keep a close watch for the appearance and development of various crop pests and apply effective preventative and eradication measures to protect 10th-month rice and subsidiary crops, especially the 10th-month rice and winter subsidiary crops.

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CSO: 5400/4311

VIETNAM

BRIEFS

HA NAM NINH PEST--According to a Voice of Vietnam correspondent's report, the current 10th-month rice crop of Nghia Hung District, Ha Nam Ninh Province, is developing fairly well, promising a higher yield than last year's 10th-month crop. However, it is noteworthy that harmful insects and diseases are effecting large rice areas, especially stem borer caterpillars are growing in higher density than the previous year. To effectively protect its 10th-month rice, Nghia Hung District has mobilized all local cooperatives to take urgent measures to control harmful insects and diseases. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 29 Sep 86 BK] /9738

THAI BINH PEST CONTROL--In late September and early October, Thai Binh Province launched a campaign to protect 40,000 hectares of 10th-month rice against harmful insects. During the 10-day campaign, the province destroyed more than 4 million stem borer larvae and saved more than 10,000 hectares of rice from being ravaged by insects. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 13 Oct 86 BK] /9738

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